



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

DECEMBER 2013

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
Patti Ferlisi – Office Assistant*

ALCHESAY UNIT

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries
Andy Quay – Volunteer*

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
Dan Ragen – Maintenance Specialist
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker*



The Alchesay Unit provides lunch to a seasonal visitor

Photo credit: Gene Okamoto, USFWS

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- With the use of Formalin reinstated to aid in fish health, an emergency deluge shower was installed at the Williams Creek Unit in accordance with our safety plan.
- Apache trout ovarian fluid samples were sent to the Southwest Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center's fish health unit for testing to ensure no fish health issues are present.

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Spawning activities for the Apache trout program have begun at the Williams Creek Unit. Eggs are being collected from both two- and three-year-old females this year, *below left*. This is the first year eggs have been taken from two-year-old females for production needs. By the end of December, 470,155 eggs from 529 females had been taken. Jennifer Johnson, Fish Biologist from AZFWCO, assists Mike Figueroa, *below right*, with removing any dead eggs before the incubation process begins. The dead eggs are removed to prevent possible diseases from developing. Jennifer's continued contribution to this time-consuming operation is very much appreciated!



- Hatchery personnel drove 638 miles to deliver 4,650 rainbow trout (average length of almost 9") to three different locations for our New Mexico Pueblo partners. Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.

- The Alchesay Unit received 36,832 rainbow trout from the Williams Creek Unit. These fish ranged in size from 5.5” to 6.25” and will be grown out before being stocked this summer and fall.
- The Alchesay Unit has been experiencing lower than normal water flows for this time of year. While the temperatures have been cold, snowpack is lower than normal. The snow would normally provide insulation and the North Fork headwaters would continue to flow. But without this insulation the headwaters tend to ice-up, resulting in less water flowing in the river. This affects the water available for fish rearing as well. The photo, *right*, shows how the splashing water forms ice on the rocks.



- After their devastating loss of almost 21,000 rainbow trout, the Complex was able to assist Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery with their tribal trust responsibilities by providing 2,500 rainbow trout. These trout were offloaded onto a Willow Beach fish distribution truck in Flagstaff, Arizona, on December 17, 2013, where they were then transported to select waters of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. During that same week, Dan Ragen traveled to Willow Beach to pick up two pallets of 3.0 mm feed that had been previously purchased for the rainbow trout which were lost.
- Both units continue efforts to reduce predation. The Alchesay Unit is managing avian predation with the continued installation of multi-colored monofilament line over raceways and ponds. The Williams Creek Unit is struggling with raccoon predation.

PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:



An Alchesay High School Special Education student assists Isaiah Paxson with sample counting rainbow trout fingerlings, *left*.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided 52 hours this month performing fish culture duties as well as building and grounds maintenance.
- Staff began mandatory hazardous materials training with the course Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Training will continue until all identified staff has completed the course. In addition, all charge card holders received their annual training.
- Most all of the hatchery personnel, as well as some family members, gathered for a holiday celebration on December 18, *below*. A “white elephant” gift exchange was enjoyed by all and canned goods were collected for donation to a local soup kitchen.



- During the holiday celebration, Bruce Thompson, *near right*, presented Jimmy Smith, *middle right*, with his 10-year service award and Jeff Cody, *far right*, with his 30-year service award. Congratulations to both and we really appreciate all the hard work and dedication!



- New Custodial Property Officers were assigned. Gene Okamoto is assigned the Alchesay Unit and Bradley Clarkson is assigned the Williams Creek Unit. Both will be given access to this area in FBMS in order to complete these duties.
- Clean-up on Williams Creek’s Cabin 3 has begun in preparation of the January arrival of new volunteer, Floyd Rider.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- The Water Control Structure at the Alchesay Unit began leaking again. It has been less than one year since the last leak was repaired. Hatchery staff will use a galvanized clamshell sleeve and Link Seal® to repair this leak.
- Dan Ragen completed the annual bulb replacement in the ultraviolet light disinfection treatment station at the Williams Creek Unit.
- Construction on the cover over A-bank raceways began with the pouring of the concrete footers, *below*.



- Concrete columns are being poured along the B-bank raceways, *below*. These columns will serve as a base for the fencing upon which the multi-colored monofilament line being used as an avian deterrent is secured. The weight of ice and snow accumulation on the lines tends to pull down the chain-link fencing posts over time.

